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GPO RELEASES NEW PAPER SPECIFICATION STANDARDS

New Standards Incorporate Latest Recycled Paper Requirements

The Government Printing Office (GPO) has issued the **Government Paper Specification Standards, No. 11**, to be used by Federal agencies in meeting their printing needs. The **Standards** incorporate President Clinton's recent order that Federal printing papers include a postconsumer fiber content of 30 percent. GPO is one of the Federal Government's largest purchasers of printing papers.

The **Standards** ensure uniformity and consistency in the use of printing, copying, and writing papers throughout the Federal Government. The newly released **Standards** fully comply with relevant laws regarding printing papers. They also address environmental, workplace safety, and paper longevity issues. The **Standards** incorporate specifications that will help achieve maximum savings in the Government's paper purchases. The last Standards were issued in 1994.

The new **Standards** fully comply with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (P.L. 94-580), the Solid Waste Disposal Act amendments of 1980 (P.L. 96-482), and President Clinton's recent Executive Order 13101, "Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition" (September 14, 1998). Where practicable, the Standards meet or exceed the Executive Order's minimum postconsumer fiber content requirements of 30 percent.

Commenting on the issuance of the new paper **Standards**, Public Printer Michael F. DiMario said, "We are very pleased to offer these new updated paper standards for use by Federal agencies. We fully support the goal to increase the use of recycled paper in the Federal Government's printing, and the new **Standards** will help agencies achieve that goal while generating increased savings for the taxpayers."

Barriers to the use of "chlorine-free" pulps and bleached-chemi-thermo-mechanical pulps (BCTMP) in the paper manufacturing process have been removed from the specification where the intended use of the paper is not affected. An uncoated, vegetable-fiber, book paper standard has also been included. Map papers with wet-

strength properties now meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements (at 29 Code of Federal Regulations 1900.1048) on the release of formaldehyde vapors into the atmosphere. Additionally, the specification of a neutral or alkaline pH is a minimum requirement for many grades of paper in order to increase their longevity, in accordance with the National Policy on Permanent Papers (P.L. 101-423). The new **Standards** also utilize metric measurements consistent with the Nation's metric conversion practices, established in the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-418).

In FY 1998, GPO purchased approximately 26,500 tons of paper for plant production use or sales to Federal agencies. GPO estimates that more than 100,000 tons of paper are utilized annually by private sector firms performing Federal printing under contract with GPO. All paper utilized in GPO-produced or -procured printing must meet the **Government Paper Specification Standards**.

The **Government Paper Specification Standards, No. 11** is available from GPO in both electronic and print formats. The **Standards** will be available free of charge via **GPO Access**, GPO's award-winning Internet information service, at www.access.gpo.gov/qualitycontrol/paperspecs/index.html.

Print copies of the **Government Paper Specification Standards, No. 11** are for sale for \$11 from GPO's Superintendent of Documents via phone, fax, mail, or online. Copies can also be ordered from 24 GPO bookstores located nationwide. Orders must cite Superintendent of Documents stock number 021-000-00174-1. To order by phone, call 202-512-1800 (M-F, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. EST), by fax to 202-512-2250 (24 hours a day), or by mail to Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. To order online, visit GPO's Online Bookstore at www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs.sale/html. All orders require prepayment. GPO accepts VISA, MasterCard, and the Discover/NOVUS card. Mail orders must include either credit card information or a check payable to the Superintendent of Documents. A 25 percent discount is available for bookdealers or bulk orders of 100 copies or more. Overnight shipping is available at an additional charge.

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